

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
MAY 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,  
Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Ted Munford, Dave Everett, Bert Clark, Samantha Scott, and JoAnn Cowan and Mayor Sonja Norton.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Sonja Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** An uplifting thought was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Samantha Scott.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2015 REGULAR MEETING:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of May 6, 2015. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2015 SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING:** *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2015. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2015 SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING:** *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the minutes of May 14, 2015. Councilmember seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF DINOSAUR ROUND-UP RODEO – BRETT HANCOCK, BRANDT EMERY AND MIKE KARREN:** Mike Karren explained that there is a lot of new volunteers for the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo including Loretta Karren, Cindy Williams, Brandt Emery and Colleen Lawson. This year a designated mission statement that supports the rodeo goals and ideas has been approved, and there are new PRCA guidelines. Councilmember Everett asked who would be the stock contractor. Mike Karren answered it would be Powder William. Mr. Karren went over the financial statement for the rodeo for the last few years and the projected budget for 2015. One of the largest revenue items is the sale of alcohol, and this year the PRCA has dropped the sponsorship of Jack Daniels so more brands will be sold. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked why the revenue was off last year. Mike Karren stated that what the thought is that the higher economy caused there to be less participation. Several things have been implemented to make it easier to buy tickets, especially on-line. A new expense for this year is the score board. Councilmember Cowan asked how the purse compares with other rodeos. Mike Karren answered that this rodeo is considered a large outdoor rodeo because of the purse, with PRCA putting up \$65,000 and the Rodeo putting up \$70,000.

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Mayor Norton thanked the Rodeo Committee for the report. Mike Karren suggested the Mayor join the Grand Entry, and he would provide a horse for her. Mayor Norton declined. Mike Karren stated that putting on an event this large takes a lot of volunteer hours. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to continue to sponsor the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo in the amount of \$30,000 plus \$2000 for the Special Needs Rodeo. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Scott.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

### **REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ROD & GUN CLUB SHOOTING EVENT –**

**STACEY HAWLEY:** Stacey Hawley explained that this large shooting tournament will be held June 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> and is expected to draw over 300 participants. The number of participants has been dropping, and if it goes below 300, there will be an extra charge for a trophy package. All 115 campsites have been rented and 294 shooters have signed up for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of competition. The participants and their families spend over \$1million dollars in Vernal City while they are here. Ms. Hawley gave the Council a program explaining this event. Councilmember Cowan stated she understood the economic benefits of this program. She noted that during the budget workshops, it was brought to the Council's attention that revenue is down, and it may be difficult to continue to sponsor these type of events in the future. After further discussion, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to sponsor the Rod & Gun Club shooting event in June in the amount of \$5,000 for 2015. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Scott.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER INDUSTRY REPORT – KATHLEEN HOFFMAN:**

Kathleen Hoffman thanked the Council for allowing her to give the annual report. She explained that Rocky Mountain Power does have a new executive manager from Pacific Corp. Energy. They have implemented a street light replacement program, and Vernal City is very good at notifying them when there is a problem. The average time to repair a light is 5.8 days after notification. Councilmember Clark stated that the poles have a number on them making it easier to notify Rocky Mountain Power which lights are out. Kathleen Hoffman explained that most services are available on their website. If someone has a problem, they can go to the website and their message goes to the contact center. There is also a mobile app for phones. Ken Bassett asked about the possibility of changing the street lights to LED lights. Kathleen explained that if the City owns the lights, there is an incentive program to help with the cost of replacing the lights. If Rocky Mountain Power owns the lights, an audit can be done to see if it

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is cost effective to change the lights. Many times the communities look at purchasing the lights to put in something more decorative. The Council thanked Kathleen for the report.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF EASEMENT TO UDOT WEST HWY 40 FOR NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT:** Ken Bassett presented a diagram of where the new traffic light will be installed at the main entrance to Lowe's and Vernal Towne Center. The main concern is the speed of the traffic coming off the hill from the west and vehicles trying to get onto the roadway from the shopping center. Initially, the light was only going to be a three way light, but after meetings with UDOT and the Baptist Church, the light will be a typical four way light. The City has an easement in this area for a sewer line, and UDOT is asking the City to release the easement and, in turn, will include the easement for the line as part of the state-wide utility agreement. The City's sewer line will not be affected. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked if UDOT will pay for the light. Ken Bassett answered yes. He stated there will also be a digital traffic reminder with flashing lights. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the release of the easement and have the Mayor sign all the necessary documents to assist with the installation of a semaphore on Highway 40. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Munford, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ADOPTION OF THE WATER CONSERVATION PLAN – RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08:** Ken Bassett explained that all the water entities held a meeting, and although there was not any talk about restricting the use of water, the consensus of the entities was to launch a conservation campaign using the "Slow the Flow" concepts. He asked the Council to adopt the water conservation plan as presented as the plan meets all requirements of the State. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-08 adopting the Water Conservation Plan. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Scott.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

#### Fire Department Breakfast:

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan reported that there were fewer people at the Fireman's breakfast this year, possibly do to the weather.

#### Animal District Report:

Councilmember Dave Everett brought the Council's attention to the annual report from the Animal District. The new isolation building is now in use and will enhance the welfare of the animals

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Vernal Excitement:

Councilmember Samantha Scott notified the Council that the Vernal Excitement events start next Thursday with a talent night. The Excitement Association paired with the Recreation District to provide a movie in the park with concessions and prizes to shop downtown.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.

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Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

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